

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 04655 300550Z

20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NSCE-00 IO-10 /089 W

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R 300431Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4737

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4655

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CH, IN, SK

SUBJECT: OFFICIALHKRC CONDEMNATION OF INDIA

1. ON APRIL 29, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PRC ISSUED AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT EXPRESSING CHINA'S "UTMOST INDIGNATION AND STRONG CONDEMNATION" OF INDIA'S RECENT MOVE VIS-A-VIS SIKKIM. THIS FOLLOWS A STREAM OF REPLAYS FROM FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS AND COMMENTARY CRITICAL OF INDIA. THE BELATED OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENT, MERELY REITERATES KNOWN PRC POSITIONS. IT EXPLICITLY DECLARES THAT "THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT SOLEMNLY STATES ONCE AGAIN THAT IT ABSOLUTELY DOES NOT RECOGNIZE INDIA'S ILLEGAL ANNEXATION OF SIKKIM" AND GOES ON TO EXPRESS FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE "JUST STRUGGLE" OF THE PEOPLE OF SIKKIM. THERE IS NO EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE CHOGYAL, NOR DOES THE STATEMENT LEVY NEW CHARGES AGAINST THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT OR ATTACK INDIAN

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PAGE 02 HONG K 04655 300550Z

OFFICIALS BY NAME. AS USUAL, CHINA POINTS TO THE SOVIETS AS

THE "BEHIND THE SCENES BOSS" AND THE "MAIN THREAT" TO THE NATIONS AND PEOPLES OF SOUTH ASIA. IT CALLS FOR HEIGHTENED VIGILANCE BUT PREDICTABLY LEAVES PUNISHMENT OF "INDIAN EXPANSIONISM AND ITS BACKER" TO HISTORY.

2. BEGIN XGDS-1: INDIAN COMMISSION OFFICER (CHANDRAN) INFORMED CONGENOFF THAT LOCAL PRC JOURNALIST LAI SHU-TONG WITH WHOM CHANDRAN HAS HAD INFORMAL DIALOGUE (HK 2688) HAD INFORMED HIM LAST WEEK THAT THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE SOME TYPE OF PRC REACTION ON THE SIKKIM ANNEXATION. THE IMPRESSION THAT CHANDRAN RECEIVED WAS THAT THIS WOULD BE "FOR THE RECORD" AND DID NOT REPRESENT AN ESCALATION OF THE CHINESE REACTION. CHANDRAN WAS ANTICIPATING THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PRC MIGHT ISSUE A FORMAL PROTEST NOTE TO THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND THUS CONSIDERED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT AS A Milder PROTEST MOVE. CHANDRAN ALSO SAID THE CHINESE HAD BEEN STUNG BY MRS. GANDHI'S RECENT CRITICAL REFERENCE TO CHINA'S ACTION ON TIBET AND THIS PROBABLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE STATEMENT. END XGDS-1.

3. COMMENT: THE ISSUANCE OF AN OFFICIAL PRC STATEMENT IN PEKING THREE DAYS AFTER VICE-PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN'S RETURN FROM TALKS WITH PRESIDENT BHUTTO SUGGEST THAT IT MIGHT HAVE RESULTED FROM PAKISTANI PROMPTINGS AND CONCERN ABOUT REPORTS OF CHINESE INTEREST IN IMPROVING SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS. THE STATEMENT ALSO RECEIVED TOP BILLING IN PRC-OWNED NEWSPAPERS IN HONG KONG INDICATING THE IMPORTANCE CHINA ATTACHES TO GETTING THE STATEMENT "ON THE RECORD".
CROSS

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